Amendment Bill to SEZ Act, 2005

2574. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the Government of Maharashtra to forward an Amendment Bill to Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 to meet their local requirements.

(b) if so, whether the State Government have forwarded any Amendment Bill in this regard; and

(c) if so, when it was forwarded and by when it is to be placed before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial incentives to growers of Tea, Mushroom in Uttaranchal

2575. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to grant financial incentives to the Tea, Mushroom and other products growers in the hilly and backwards areas of Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) During the 10th Plan period, Tea Board has been extending subsidy as admissible under its Tea Plantation Development Scheme. The State of Uttaranchal is being treated as a non-traditional area for the purpose of granting subsidy for new planting by the small growers. For new planting and also for uprooting of old tea areas for replanting or replacement planting, subsidy @ Rs. 69,000/- per hectare is provided. Subsidy is also given for rejuvenation, pruning & infilling, inter-row planting in the rejuvenation pruned areas and for creation of irrigation facilities. Financial support is also being extended by the Tea Board for setting up of self help groups by the small tea growers.

Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in Uttaranchal. The scheme is implemented in a Mission mode approach and assistance is provided to farmers for expansion of various horticultural crops and for creation of infrastrcuture facilities such as nurseries, community water tanks, drip irrigation, green houses etc. besides providing assistance @ Rs. 50 lakhs for establishment of integrated mushroom units under public sector.

Discussions of SEZ issues

2576. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take up with various State Governments the issues concerning the Special Economic Zones for attracting greater investment;

(b) if so, whether in a meeting for setting up a SEZs he asked entrepreneurs to come up with State-specific issues which he would discuss with respective State Government to make such zones attractive for investment and generate employment;

(c) if so, what were the outcome of the discussions held with State Governments in this regard; and

(d) whether Government have accepted the suggestion for further simplification of the process and regulating aspects of the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The policy of the Government is to encourage and facilitate the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the private sector or joint sector in association with the State Governments or by the State Governments themselves. The State Government have an important role to play in the establishment of the SEZs and a formal approval is not given by the Central Government without the recommendation of the respective State Government. The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 contain provisions requiring the State Governments to provide certain facilities and incentives, which include granting exemptions from State taxes, levies and duties to the Developer or the Units in the SEZs and providing for single window clearance.